

10 each of said rail members also having an air-bearing surface which is alternately  
11 brought into contact with and separated from said surface of said medium, said air-  
12 bearing surface being generally parallel to said surface of said medium.

1 10. (Amended) A slider, comprising:  
2 a body;  
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium  
4 during read and write operations; and  
5 first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a  
6 general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge  
7 that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a  
8 width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that  
9 is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the width of the leading edge is  
10 substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, and the leading edge is a  
11 pointed tip that extends to the body and is spaced from outer side surfaces of the body.

1 40. (Amended) A slider, comprising:  
2 a body;  
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium  
4 during read and write operations; and  
5 first and second rails that extend from the body towards the medium, wherein  
6 each of the rails has a leading edge that is part of a curved surface and faces into a general  
7 direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a tapered width adjacent  
8 to the leading edge, a trailing edge that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing  
9 surface that faces the medium, the leading edge, trailing edge and tapered width extend  
10 between the air-bearing surface and the body, and the leading edge is narrower than the  
11 trailing edge.

Cancel claims 17-19, 23-28, 41-47, 51-53, 62 and 65.

Add the following claims:

1           70.     A slider, comprising:  
2           a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium  
3           during read and write operations; and  
4           first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a  
5           general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge  
6           that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a  
7           width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that  
8           is substantially perpendicular to the direction, and the width of the leading edge is  
9           substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, each of the rails includes a V-  
10          shaped portion, a narrow part of the V-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part  
11          of the V-shaped portion is the trailing edge.

1           71.     A slider, comprising:  
2           a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium  
3           during read and write operations; and  
4           first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a  
5           general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge  
6           that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a  
7           width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that  
8           is substantially perpendicular to the direction, and the width of the leading edge is  
9           substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, each of the rails includes a  
10          wedge-shaped portion, a narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is the leading edge and  
11          a wide part of the wedge-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge, each of the rails  
12          includes a rectilinear portion between the wedge-shaped portion and the trailing edge, and  
13          the narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is aligned with an inner side of the  
14          rectilinear portion and spaced from an outer side of the rectilinear portion.